

was offered in the Lincoln Journal in this afternoon's edition. A copy of which I have placed on your desk and with your permission I'll proceed.

PRESIDENT: You have the floor Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I hope that you have had the opportunity to read the comment on or under the column headline Nebraska Resources by Mr. Harold Simmons. I do not see Mr. Simmons in the room at this time, I have always had a good relationship with the press, the press has always been far more generous to me than I deserve, and I am a little bit disturbed by the comment because of the insinuation by a member of the press that I would do something for money on the floor of this legislature. I think that those of you who know me then know that I have champion causes while I have been here. I have taken bills for bankers, for employers, for lawyers, for doctors and probably some for thieves, I have taken bills that would be for the interest of the rich, or the poor, and I think that in most cases I have represented those people well, whether they have been inside of my district or outside of my district. I do not think that any time I would have attempted to hide the fact that I have interests outside of this legislature and I think that all of us recognize that no man or woman can serve on this body unless they do have a source of income in addition to that of which we supposedly call our salary. All of you know that I am a farmer, and all of you know that I feed a few cattle and all of you know that I own and operate a small fleet of helicopters. Before I go any further you can no sooner hide a helicopter or a helicopter operation then you can hide the kind of business that Senator DeCamp referred to earlier this afternoon. I have never attempted to do so. The same press which has reported that I have a contract with the Nebraska Public Power services, did not report first of all that the headquarters for the Nebraska Public Power is located in my district. If anyone is entitled to represent Nebraska Public Power, I am that person. I think that if any one is capable of representing their interests, I am that person. I'll let you know now that I do not intend to change my point of view to back up or to hide because of an attack upon me by Mr. Simmons who has conveniently chosen to be absent at this time. I want to point out also that I do not, I do not blame any of the persons who might have been on the opposite side of this issue as members of this body for for this article. I want to go into a little bit of history.

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(start belt #8A)

The first thing that a member of the press should do is that they should be accurate. Mr. Simmons spoke to me only this morning as we walked by, he did not bother to ask me if the figures that he represented in this article were accurate. He said that I get \$100 per hour for flying. Let me correct that I get \$100 an hour for routine power line patrol. The operation to which he refers for restraining the wire, my pilots very foolishly offered to do it for \$150 per hour. Had I made the bid it would have been considerably higher than that and I have since found out that another firm in another state does similar work for a price ranging from \$400 per hour